



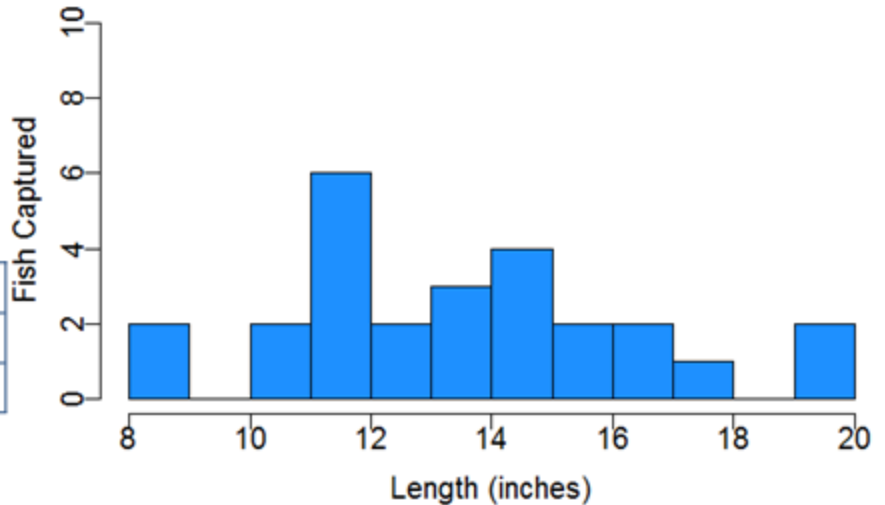
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Knuteson Lake, Sawyer County, 2017

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted a fyke netting survey on Knuteson Lake from April 12-13, 2017 to assess the black crappie population in the lake. Five nets were set overnight for two total nights which resulted in 10 total net-nights of effort. An electrofishing survey conducted on May 25, 2017 documented the status of bluegill, largemouth bass, and non-game species. The entire shoreline of the lake (1.45 miles) was shocked. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Largemouth bass



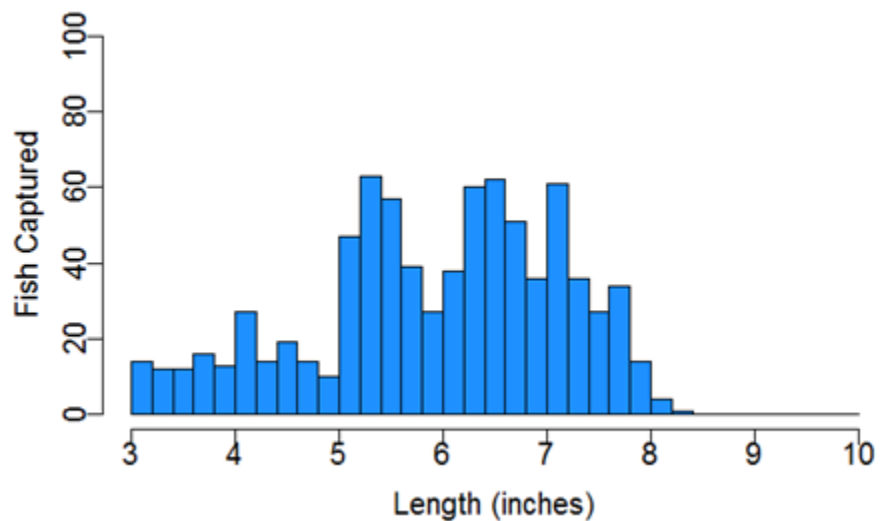
Captured 18 per mile \geq 8 inches	
Quality Size \geq 12"	62%
Preferred Size \geq 15"	27%



Bluegill



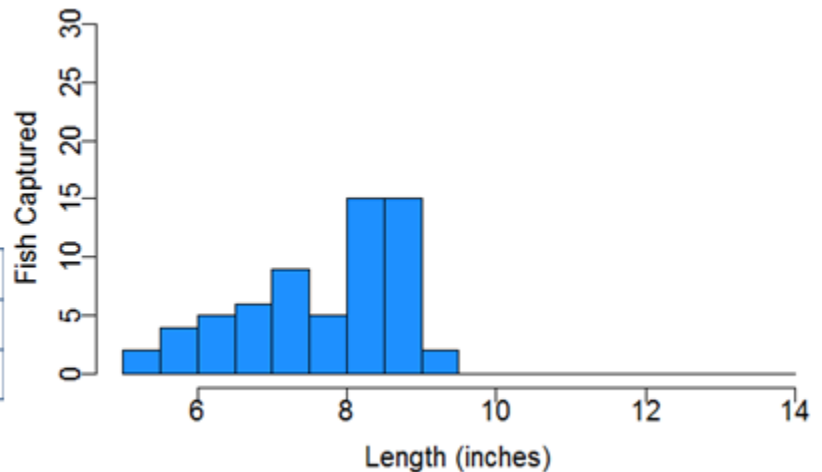
Captured 557 per mile \geq 3 inches	
Quality Size \geq 6"	52%
Preferred Size \geq 8"	1%



Black Crappie



Captured 6 per net-night ≥ 5 inches	
Quality Size ≥ 8 "	51%
Preferred Size ≥ 10 "	0%



Summary of Results

Knuteson Lake was a relatively easy lake to survey and this effort should provide a good snapshot of the fishery.

Largemouth bass are moderately abundant and have decent size with many bass over 14 inches present and some even approaching 20 inches. Habitat in Knuteson Lake is well suited for largemouth bass. No smallmouth bass were captured in our survey but they are present in other lakes in the Upper Red Cedar drainage.

Bluegill are very abundant in Knuteson Lake. Typically lakes with a very high abundance of bluegill have few bluegill that would be large enough to be of interest to anglers (this phenomenon is commonly referred to as “stunting”). But that is not the case in Knuteson Lake, many bluegill over 7 inches were captured and a few were even over 8 inches. Knuteson Lake, like Lake Chetac downstream, have high levels of naturally occurring nutrients that seem to allow them to support a better overall size of bluegill than would be expected based on the density of panfish in the lake.

Crappie were moderately abundant and exhibited below average size. Few crappie in Knuteson Lake would be considered desirable to anglers.

While they were not a target species in this survey, three walleye were captured between the netting and electrofishing efforts in 2017. It is not clear if these walleye were naturally born in Knuteson Lake or if they migrated in from Lake Chetac where walleye are more common. No walleye stocking has occurred in Knuteson Lake in recent years. Northern pike are present in Knuteson Lake and some were captured during this survey, but survey timing was not ideal to target pike so that data is not reported.

Bowfin (also known as “dogfish”) are also present in Knuteson Lake. Bowfin represent a unique angling opportunity and probably do not deserve their bad reputation. Bowfin are poor table fare, but put up an excellent fight and can be caught with the same gear and lures used to target bass.



A nice largemouth bass from the electrofishing effort on Knuteson Lake. Photo by Max Wolter.

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